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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WESTERN HEMISPHERE: ECUADOR; SAO PAULO

"On Chavez's Path"

Liberal, largest national circulation daily Folha de S. Paulo (10/2) editorialized: "Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa obtained Sunday a major victory by electing most of the members of the Constituent Assembly he had called.... The result places Correa on the heels of Evo Morales and Hugo Chavez in the race for what they have called '21st Century socialism,' which is a revival of old caudillo-led populism. The most probable outcome of the adventure on which the Ecuadorians are now embarking will be to scare away investments and worsen even more the nation's poverty and instability. The script has already been outlined. Correa has stated that he intends to use the 'wide powers' given to the Assembly to close the Congress, which was elected with him in 2006.... If the Venezuelan model is repeated, what will come next are indefinite presidential reelections and the institution of the Executive tutelage over the Judiciary and the Legislature powers. So far, Correa is taking advantage of his high popularity. However, it is hard to say how long the honeymoon between the new president and the population will endure. Ecuador is usually unforgiving with leaders who are out of favor."  
White